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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
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## FARM PHONE RATES UP SEVEN PERCENT IN 1952

Farmers paid 7 percent more for local telephone service in 1952 than in 1951 according to an annual survey made in July 1952 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This survey, which included reports from over 21,000 farmers throughout the United States, also indicated that 40.3 percent of farm homes had telephone service in July 1952.

The average monthly rate paid by farmers, including both local and long distance service, was \$4.62 according to estimates based on the July 1952 survey. Of this amount, \$3.06 was for local service and \$1.56 was for long distance or toll calls. A year earlier, the farmers' telephone bill for a month averaged \$4.53, including \$2.87 for local service. The 1941-50 average for local service rates was \$2.20.

By geographic regions, as listed in the table below, the highest average monthly telephone bills for local and long distance service were \$6.54 for the Pacific Coast and \$6.26 for New England. The lowest was \$3.47 in the West North Central region. The highest average bill for local service only was \$3.91 in New England while the lowest was \$2.59 in the West North Central region. Much of the regional variation in cost is a reflection of the difference in type and quality of service provided to farmers in the various regions.

FARM TELEPHONE BILLS AND TYPE OF TELEPHONE SERVICE  
ON FARMS, BY REGIONS, JULY 1952

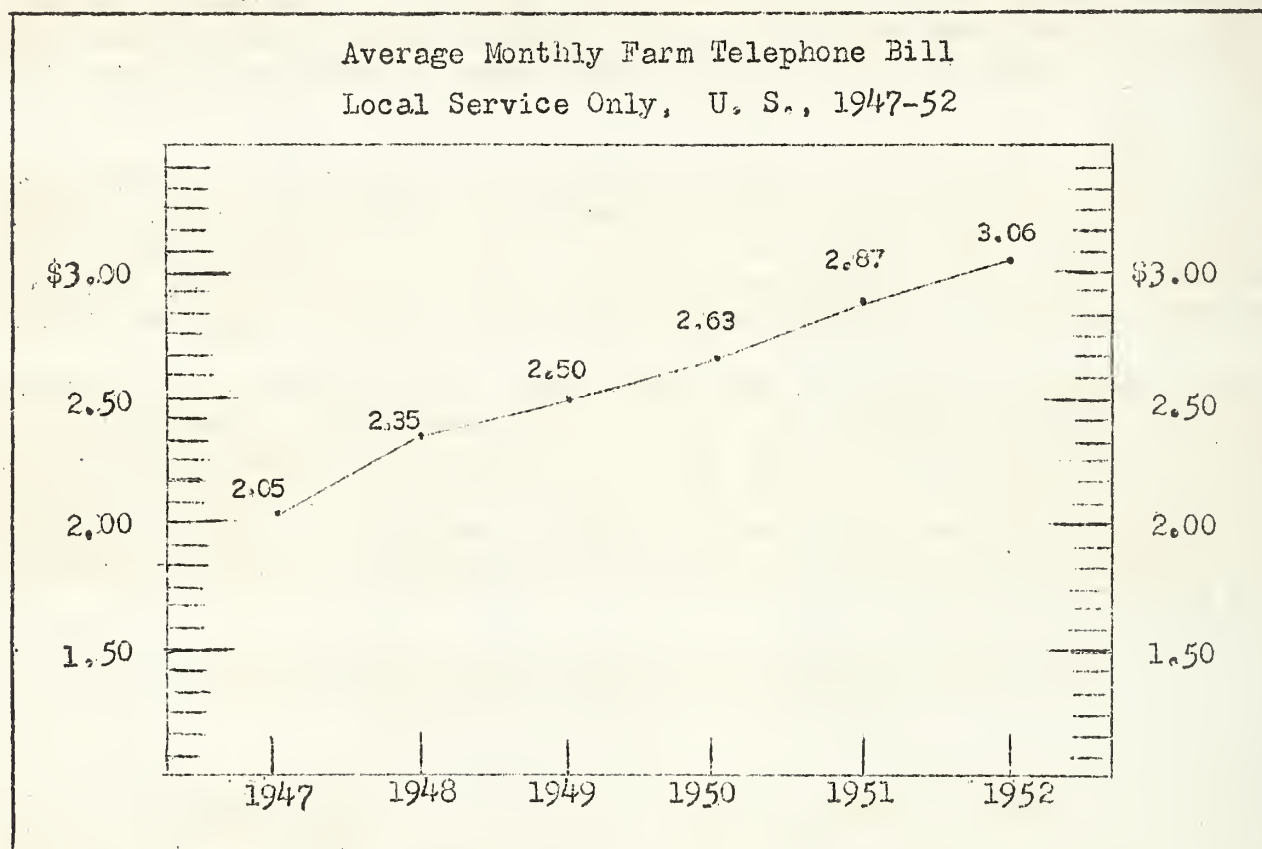
Region	Monthly Telephone Bill			Type Service		
	Local	Long Distance	Total	Private line	2 to 4 Parties on line	5 or more Parties on line
				Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. Eng.	3.91	2.35	6.26	8.8	35.1	56.1
M. Atl.	3.32	2.11	5.42	4.8	23.1	72.1
E.N.Cent.	2.97	1.25	4.22	1.6	11.9	86.5
W.N.Cent.	2.59	.88	3.47	2.3	10.9	86.8
S. Atl.	3.48	2.37	5.85	4.4	27.2	68.4
E.S.Cent.	3.18	1.62	4.80	6.4	31.6	62.0
W.S.Cent.	2.95	1.89	4.84	5.3	31.2	63.5
Mount.	3.43	1.99	5.43	2.8	16.7	80.5
Pacific	3.82	2.72	6.54	3.8	28.7	67.5
U. S.	3.06	1.56	4.62	3.4	19.0	77.6

As of July 1952, only about 3 percent of the farmers with telephone service had private lines, nearly one-fifth were on 2 to 4 party lines, and over three-fourths were on lines with 5 or more parties.

Generally the States and regions with the higher average telephone rates were those with the larger proportion of private phones. Nine percent of the New England farm homes with telephones were served by private lines compared with about 2 percent in the East North Central and West North Central States. (See table). On the other hand only slightly more than half of New England farm telephone subscribers were on lines with 5 or more parties compared with over 85 percent of farm telephones in the North Central regions.



About 45 percent of the telephones in farm homes were served by companies in the Bell System, according to the survey. By geographic regions this varied from a high of 87 percent of the farms served by the Bell System in New England States to 25 percent in the East North Central area. In the principal agricultural areas of the Nation small independent companies and cooperatives still serve a large proportion of the rural subscribers.



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